

WATER DISTRICT 34 GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION

Prepared by Idaho Department of Water Resources

Water Distribution Section

Boise, Idaho

7.5.2 Gage station and flow measuring facilities are described in Rule 25.03. A gage station or other flow measuring facility as approved by the Director, shall be located at the Howell Gage, Chilly Bridge, 2-B Gage, Leslie Gage, Moore diversion, Arco diversion, and Arco Gage (see Figure 1).

7.5.2.1 The Howell, 2-B and Arco Gages are maintained as part of a USGS and state of Idaho cooperative program.

7.5.2.2 All other gages shall be operated when water diversions, other than just storage in Mackay Reservoir, are being made from the river. The cost of installation, operation and maintenance of these other measuring facilities is WD34's responsibility.

- IDWR has maintained the Leslie Gage rating as a courtesy, and will do so in the future, unless the Water District or others take over this task.

7.6 Futile Calls (Rule 20.04)

When curtailment of junior upstream surface water rights will not make water available for delivery and use to senior downstream surface water rights, without unreasonable waste as determined by the Director, the Watermaster will not curtail the junior water rights in a futile effort to deliver water to the senior rights. The Director may consult the Water District 34 Advisory Board, the Big Lost River Irrigation District and other impacted water users when determining whether attempting to deliver senior downstream surface water rights would be futile.

7.6.1 For the Big Lost River below the Beck Diversion, follow procedures as per attached IDWR letters of 5/17/2004 and 7/28/2004- Futile Call Requests.

7.6.2 For all other regulated streams, the Watermaster shall provide data satisfactory to the Director (or designee) that proves the futile call is legitimate. Approval from the Directory or designee is necessary to initiate and implement a futile call. Streams that may anticipate implementation of the futile call doctrine include: Antelope Creek/Cherry Creek, Alder Creek, and the Big Lost River above the reservoir when curtailment of junior rights to fill reservoir storage rights is futile. GP-6c covers some of the requirements for measurements when determining futile calls above the reservoir.

7.6.3 Water must be delivered to the senior priority if called for. If insufficient water for beneficial use is reaching senior priorities, they may voluntarily withdraw calls and make water available to the junior priority users upstream. No futile call determination and order from the Director is necessary.

7.6.3.1 If senior downstream priorities continue to call for water, it must be delivered and upstream junior priorities must be shut off. Continued attempts to deliver senior priorities must be made until a futile call order is issued by the Director.

7.6.3.2 In requesting a futile call, data to be provided to the Director should include:

- Priority date in effect on stream. Antelope and Alder Creek priorities should correspond to the Big Lost River priority in effect downstream of Mackay Reservoir. Upstream of Mackay reservoir, priority will be the same as the Big Lost River, either in it's disconnected (GP-6a and 6b in effect) or connected administrative state
- Recent daily diversion measurements on the affected stream reach, with indication of the water right number(s) and priority date(s) being served by each diverted amount. Diversions on tributary streams, such as Cherry Creek on the Antelope Creek drainage, or Warm Springs/Pole Stackyard Creek on the Big Lost River above Mackay Reservoir also need to be included.
- Any stream flow measurements, conveyance loss estimates, maps showing the reaches in question, and other information that may be useful.
- A representative from IDWR may assist in making flow measurements and collecting other pertinent data if requested by the Watermaster.

7.6.3.3 The Watermaster should make a written (fax is ok) request for a futile call determination to the Director. IDWR will then coordinate with the Watermaster to obtain the above listed information efficiently, and issue the futile call order quickly if the Director (or designee) so approves.

7.7 Water Deliveries and Priority Date Calculation

- 7.7.1 Measuring Devices And Control Works (Rule 35). Rule 35.01 provides for the Director to refuse delivery of water per Chapter 7, Title 42, Idaho Code where an acceptable measuring device and control works is not in place or properly maintained. Costs for installing and maintaining measuring devices and control works is born by the water user.
- 7.7.2 Where practical, gage readings should be recorded daily for all established diversions in WD34. In remote locations, such as Antelope and Alder Creeks, and Big Lost River and tributaries above Mackay reservoir, diversions may remain nearly constant for several days in a row. In these cases, daily visits aren't necessary by the Watermaster to record gage readings. Diversion can be interpolated from readings for the days in between.
- 7.7.2.1 Diversion data should be entered electronically twice a week through the Water District data entry program accessed through the IDWR Internet site. The data entry program has options for interpolating between non-daily readings to get estimated daily readings.